

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS,  
BUILDING F  
37-55 East Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-213-F

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
716F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HAER  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
716F-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING SURVEY

DANIEL F. WATERS GERMANTOWN DYE WORKS, BUILDING F

HAER No. PA-213-F

Location:

37-55 E. Wister Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

Present Owner:

Greater Germantown Housing Development Corporation  
48 East Penn Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Present Occupant:

Vacant.

Significance:

Building F is a dye house built by Daniel F. Waters during this expansion of the Germantown Dye Works in the first decade of this century.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History

#### Date(s) of Erection:

Building F was erected in 1907 and cost \$5,000 (Philadelphia Building Permit #3891, June 6, 1907).

#### Architect:

Hewitt Stevens Paist  
Bullitt Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### Original/Subsequent Owners:

See Chain of Title.

#### Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

Contractor: R. W. Peterson, 5250 Wakefield, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

#### Original Plans/Construction:

According to the building permit, Building F measures 53' x 93' and is 1-story (12'). Built of brick construction, the walls were originally 18" thick, the floor was of concrete, and the dye house had pine rafters. A sawtooth monitor extends the length of the building. A brick elevator shafts connects the east end of Building F with the upper floor of Building L.

#### Alterations/Additions:

No major additions or alterations.

### B. Historical Context

Building F, as a dye house, was a major component to a building campaign that Daniel F. Waters undertook in 1907. Along with Building F, Buildings G, L, and parts of K, M, and N were erected in the same time period. Building F replaced two structures built when William Mills was proprietor, a wagon house/drying room and a carriage house/stable. Building F is similar in scale and design as the other dye houses, Buildings E and C.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

#### Architectural Character:

Building F is a one-story, brick, early twentieth century vernacular industrial structure.

#### Condition of Fabric:

The exterior walls, elevator shaft, and built-up asphalt roofing of Building F are in sound condition. The monitor is in poor condition with deteriorated sash that has exposed the interior to harsh weather conditions.

### B. Description of Exterior

#### Overall Dimensions:

53' x 93', 1-story.

#### Foundations:

Concrete.

#### Walls:

Material: brick, common bond.

Thickness: when built, 18".

#### Structural System/Framing:

Load bearing brick with internal steel posts and wood beams and truss system.

#### Porches/Stoops/Balconies/Bulkheads:

Not applicable.

#### Chimneys:

Roof vents and pipes for venting dyeing vats.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

Building F has one exterior doorway, on the south facade at the end of the cartway. The doorway has a simple brick surround with limestone lintel. It also has modern infill and a double-leaf panelled and glazed door covered with plywood.

Windows/Shutters:

Two windows of the south facade, west of the doorway, have brick segmental arches and simple brick surrounds. One window is boarded-over with plywood, and the other had a modern four-over-four sash. The elevator shaft has a louvered ventilator window near the roof line on its west facade. The north elevation of 7 bays contains large rectangular openings with double sets of 6/6 double-hung sash.

Roof:

The two slopes of the gable roof are of built-up asphalt roofing. The roof wall junction is capped with terra-cotta tiles. The monitor has corrugated metal siding.

C. Description of Interior

Floor Plans:

The interior of Building F is similar to Building C, each having been a dye house. At the north side of the interior are ground-recesses which housed machinery. There is a center aisle, extending west to east, under the monitor. The entire floor is open, with column footings and the elevator shaft. A short wood and glass partition wall occurs to the north of the doorway.

Stairways:

Not applicable.

Flooring:

Concrete, recessed for dyeing equipment.

Wall/Ceiling Finishes:

Walls, exposed brickwork throughout. Ceilings, exposed wooden truss work.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

Simple, molded surrounds.

Windows:

Molded surrounds and sills.

Decorative Features and Trim:

Not applicable.

Hardware:

Locks, hinges, and knobs; contemporary with the building period.

Mechanical Equipment:

Heating, air conditioning, ventilation:

Overhead duct work with heat registers.

Lighting:

Modern lighting fixtures.

Plumbing:

Not available.

**D. Site**

General Setting/Orientation:

Building F sits at the rear of the Germantown Dye Works site at the end of the cartway that extends from Wister Street. To the north are the row houses along Collom Street; to the west is Building B of the Hinckley Knitting Mills; to the south is the cartway, Buildings G and E; and to the east is Building J.

Historic Landscape Design:

None

Outbuildings:

None.